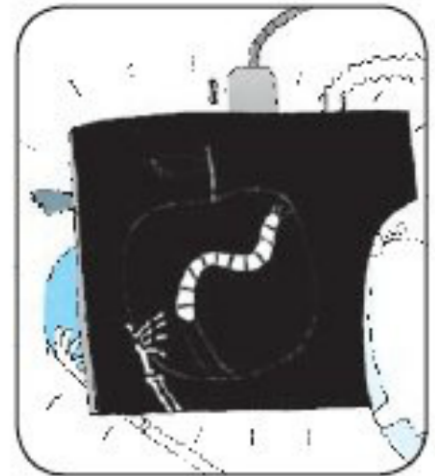


Writing Complex Sentences 3

Adverbial clauses are used to form complex sentences. They answer *how*, *when*, *where*, *why*, *how much*, or *under what condition*. Adverbial clauses can be used at the beginning or at the end of complex sentences. Subordinating conjunctions—words like *after*, *although*, *before*—are used to introduce adverbial clauses. (See pages 579 and 794.1 in *Texas Write Source*.)



Example

Shorter Sentences:

John checked the apple for wormholes. He ate the apple.

Combined Sentences:

Before he ate the apple, John checked it for wormholes.

(An adverbial clause at the beginning of a sentence needs a comma.)

John checked the apple for wormholes **before he ate the apple.**

(An adverbial clause at the end of a sentence does not need a comma.)



Combine each of the following sets of short sentences into one sentence using the subordinating conjunction listed in the parentheses. The first one has been done for you.

1. I was about six years old. Something unforgettable happened. (*when*)

When I was about six years old, something unforgettable happened.

2. Dad banged on my door. He yelled, "Get dressed and get downstairs!" (*as*)

3. I realized I had forgotten my glasses. I was halfway down the stairs. (*before*)

4. “What’s wrong?” I asked. I struggled to pull on my shoes. (*while*)

5. My dad turned and yelled, “Fire!” He rushed out the front door. (*as*)

6. He caught his breath. He said, “The neighbor’s house is on fire!” (*when*)

7. My heart was beating wildly in my throat. I was still half asleep. (*although*)

8. I was hit by a blast of hot, smoky wind. I followed my dad outside. (*as*)

9. I was awake by then. I still hoped this was all a dream. (*although*)

Next Step Write a paragraph about fire. Maybe you have been involved in a fire. Maybe you have a relative who is a firefighter. Exchange your writing with a classmate. On your classmate’s paper, look for ideas that might be combined using adverbial clauses. Checkmark those ideas. When you get your paper back, try to combine the checkmarked ideas. Then read your revised paragraph to your classmate.